Regions Director

The Regions Director serves a three-year term, so candidates run for election every third year. The next election for the regions is in 2023. The Regions Director chairs the Regions Committee and serves on the Planning Committee.

Susan E. Hill
David L. Weddle

Susan E. Hill is professor of religion at the University of Northern Iowa. She received her BA from Macalester College in 1970, a master's degree in life science from the University of Iowa in 1972, and her PhD in psychology from the University of Missouri in 1979. She has been at the University of Northern Iowa since 1975, where she is currently a professor of religion. She has been involved in AAR's Upper Midwest Region since the 1990s and in regional leadership since 2001. In 2003, she served as the Chair of the AAR Regions Task Force, which reviewed and made recommendations for changes in the regional structures of the AAR.

Statement on the AAR

I am enthusiastic about the possibility of serving as the Regions Director for the AAR. I believe that my experience and knowledge of the Upper Midwest Region, as well as my leadership skills, make me well-suited to represent regional interests on the national AAR Board of Directors.

The Regions Director needs to represent and to advocate for the regions; they are an important part of the work of the AAR. The position of Regions Director would allow me to continue my work in supporting the Regions at the national level.

The Regions Director also needs to understand the distinct identities of all of the regions. My work as Regional Director has given me a deep understanding of the unique characteristics of each Region, and I believe that this knowledge will help me represent them well.

The Regions Director will also need to be an effective participant on the AAR Board of Directors. As a Regional Director, I have had the opportunity to work with other members of the Board on various projects, and I believe that I have the skills to contribute effectively to discussions and decision-making.

Hill has been involved in AAR’s Upper Midwest Region since the 1990s and in regional leadership since 2001. She has served as Chair of the AAR Regions Task Force in 2003, which reviewed and made recommendations for changes in the regional structures of the AAR.
The AAR has given me many opportunities to explore my scholarly interests and grow as a leader. I would be honored to give back to the organization by serving as Regions Director.

David L. Weddle is professor of religion at Colorado College, where he teaches courses in comparative theology, the history of religion, and world religion. Weddle received his BA from the University of Georgia, his MA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and his PhD from Harvard University. In addition to articles in scholarly journals, Weddle is the author of *Law as Gospel: Revival and Reform in the Theology of Charles G. Finney* (Scarecrow Press, 1985) and *Miracles: Wonder and Meaning in World Religions* (New York University Press, 2010).

Prior to coming to Colorado College in 2001, Weddle taught at Cornell College, Iowa, where he served on many faculty committees and was named a Distinguished Teacher in 2008. He was the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2000 and a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey, in 2013. Since 2016, he has been the director of the Center for World Religions, Spirituality, and Religion in Society at the university.

Statement on the AAR

My reason for standing for election as AAR Regions Director is to advocate for stronger connections between the AAR and regional organizations, recognizing the diverse and overlapping constituencies served by the AAR. The AAR has illustrated itself as a vital resource for the study of religion, and its mission must be carried forward.

My career in small undergraduate liberal arts colleges has required teaching across a wide range of subjects, and I have served as an officer and member of national AAR committees and task forces. I have been appointed to the AAR Regions Task Force in 2010 and to the national AAR Regions Task Force in 2010.

As we enter a new phase of AAR governance, we must address questions of how best to employ the resources in our Regions. The AAR Regions must be recognized as primary locations for scholarly exchange and collegial conversation. From the time I began teaching — in the days when *JAR* had illustrated covers — the AAR has provided indispensable peer support, rich scholarly resources, and pedagogical assistance.

Finally — and perhaps most important for the future of the study of religion in the academy — we must strengthen the ties between the AAR and regional organizations. The AAR Regions Director will be a key location for coordinating and promoting the contributions of our regional organizations.